15. Shri Rama Krishna Kanthala (LS)
16. Shri D.K. Naikar (LS)
17. Shri Bola Bulli Ramaih (LS)
18. Shri R. Surendra Reddy (LS)
19. Shri Yellaih Nandi (LS)
20. Shri A. Prathap Sai (LS)
21. Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi (LS)
22. Kumari Kamala Kerreoddula (LS)
23. Shri Brishin Patel (LS)
24. Shri Rudrasen Chaudhry (LS)
25. Shri Kashiram Rana (LS)
26. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav (LS)
27. Shri S.R. Bomai (RS)
28. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi (LS)
29. Shri Lal Babu Rai (LS)
30. Shri Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy (LS)
31. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan (LS)
32. Shri G. Prathapa Reddy (RS)
33. Shri Y. Narayana Swamy (RS)
34. Moh. Afzal (RS)
35. Shri Ranjan Prasad Yadav (RS)
36. Shri P.V. Patil (LS)
37. Shri Sureshanand Swami (LS)
38. Shri Ramachandra Veerappa (LS)
39. Shri Inder Kumar Gujaral (RS)
40. Shri Rajani Ranjan Sahu (RS)
41. Shri Anna Joshi (LS)
42. Shri Indrajit Gupta (LS)
43. Shri Chaturanan Mishra (RS)
44. Shri Dharmaraju Satyanarayana (RS)
45. Shri Suresh Kalmadi (RS)

Banning of smoking in public places

2717. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of a call for a ban on smoking made at meetings held, of and on as smoking causes cancer;

(b) whether it is a fact that smoking is banned in public places such as buildings, transport-oily sector and sensitive places of atmosphere around; and

(c) if so, whether Government are thinking seriously on putting a complete ban on smoking as this is our motto "smoking is injurious for health"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Government has already prohibited smoking in selected public places like hospitals, dispensaries, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air, flights, air-conditioned chair, sub-urban trains and air-conditioned and sleeper coaches in trains, buses through an administrative order issued in May, 1990. With a view to make the ban legally enforceable, it has since been decided to enact a comprehensive legislation which would inter-alia, provide for ban on smoking in these places as also in such other places as may be notified by the Government from time to time.

Sick units in Orissa

2718. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some major and medium units in Orissa have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the details of such units and the reasons of their sickness;

(c) the steps taken to revive those units; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by

the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest Reserve Bank of India data, 13,930 industrial units in the small scale sector and 39 industrial units in the non-small scale sector were reported sick in the State of Orissa, as at the end of March, 1993.

The major reasons of industrial sickness as reported by banks relate to internal factors comprising short-comings in project management and project appraisal areas. The other main reasons reported by banks relate to external factors like non-availability of raw materials, power shortage, financial bottlenecks, increase in overhead cost, fall in demand /recession, etc.

(c) and (d) Government has already taken steps for revival of sick industrial units. Some of the important steps are given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by Government for revival of sick industrial units

The Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation namely "The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR)' has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of the sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

(2) The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.

(3) Commercial banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units.

(4) The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sector.

(5) Revival of sick industrial units is also facilitated by amalgamation/merger of sick units with healthy units. Tax benefits are given under Section 72(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the healthy company for revival of the amalgamating sick unit.

(6) Government has set up the National Renewal Fund which would, inter-alia, provide for payment of compensation to workers affected by industrial restructuring.

(7) On the advice of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India has set up State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) in all States under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries Department of the concerned State Government for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of sick but viable small scale units.

(8) Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 1,50,000/- to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one per cent per annum is also available to potentially viable but sick small scale industrial units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

(9) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been established to function as an Apex Bank for tiny and small scale industries.

A separate Refinance Scheme for Rehabilitation (RSR) is being managed by SIDBI for revival of potentially viable but sick small scale industrial units.

R&D work in Hindustan Photo Films

2719. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the R&D Centre of Hindustan Photo Films is doing excellent works;